

REMARKS

Claims 7, 8, 10-14, and 21-27 are pending in this application.

Applicants have amended claims 7 and 10, have canceled claims 1, 3-6, 9, 15, 16, 18, and 19, and have added new claims 21-27. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 9, 10, and 14 define allowable subject matter. As will be explained below, Applicants have amended the claims to place this application in condition for immediate allowance.

Applicants have amended independent claim 7 to include the features specified in claim 9. In light of the Examiner's indication that claim 9 defines allowable subject matter, amended claim 7 is allowable over the prior art of record. Each of claims 8 and 10-14 ultimately depends from claim 7. Accordingly, claims 8 and 10-14 also are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicants have added new claims 21-27. Independent claim 21 defines a transport system for transporting semiconductor wafers to a wafer processing station. The transport system includes a pair of edge roller assemblies disposed in an opposing relationship, and each of the edge roller assemblies has the features specified in amended claim 7, which, as discussed above, defines allowable subject matter. Accordingly, for at least this reason, claim 21 is allowable over the prior art of record. Dependent claims 22-27, each of which ultimately depends from claim 21, are likewise allowable over the prior art of record for at least the same reason set forth regarding claim 21.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of claims 7, 8, and 10-14, as amended herein, as well as examination of new claims 21-27, and submit that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408)

Application No. 09/687,747
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749-6902. If any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. LAM2P135.CIP).

Respectfully submitted,
MARTINE & PENILLA, L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. B. Martine', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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